

A circular black ink stamp. The text "OIPE" is at the top, "JC139" is at the top right. The date "AUG 03 2004" is in the center. The text "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

August 2, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

### A. Introductory Comments

Prior to the continued prosecution on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows and consider the following remarks.